



YOUR ENERGY CONNECTION



Heating Costs Continue to Rise....Help Your Neighbor

Natural gas costs are increasing in the City of Rocky Mount as a result of an increase from the city's natural gas supplier due to continuing market price increases in the wholesale cost of natural gas. Rocky Mount Public Utilities recently initiated a natural gas rate increase of approximately twenty percent. As compared to the natural gas cost in November 2004, this reflects an increase of approximately 47 percent over last year. This certainly is not good news to the Rocky Mount utility customers, but it gives all customers a "heads up" to start making changes in their homes and lifestyles. Now is the time to do those home improvements that increase the comfort level and reduce heating costs in each and every home. Please review the energy conservation tips on the back of this newsletter for ideas to save money this winter.

The U. S. Department of Energy recently kicked off a new campaign to educate the public on ways to cut energy use, particularly with home heating. This new campaign is an effort to find ways to cut back as the energy industry rebuilds refineries, pipelines, drilling rigs and other infrastructure damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Natural gas, primarily produced domestically, heats 52 % of American homes. The campaign will address consumers, businesses, and the federal government, but its primary target is consumers and their homes. There is a consumer's guide to energy-saving tips available to give customers ideas of how to conserve energy. You can view this guide online at www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips.

Rocky Mount utility customers are encouraged to start planning now for higher heating costs. Take advantage of energy savings options and speak with the Customer Service Department for available assistance. Please remember the WARM program (Winter Assistance for Rocky Mount) will soon be available to assist eligible utility customers. If you or someone you know experience difficulty paying the heating bill during the winter season, the Winter Assistance for Rocky Mount (W.A.R.M.) Program may be able to provide some relief. The program assists qualified persons who are elderly (60+), disabled or recently laid off (within last 90 days) to pay heating costs during the winter. W.A.R.M. can pay for a load of wood, oil, gas or electric bills.

Funding for the W.A.R.M. Program varies each year and comes from ONE source: Donations by our utility customers (any amount). With the rising heating costs this winter, help your neighbor by donating to this valuable program.

If you can help a needy person to keep warm this winter, please sign up to make a monthly contribution with your monthly utility bill or send your tax-deductible donations to:

**City of Rocky Mount
W.A.R.M. Program
P.O. Box 1180
Rocky Mount, NC 27802
Attn: Gloria F. Hunter, Customer Assistance Specialist**

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control-

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control-

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control-

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The credit is calculated based on yearly consumption. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

**Call 972-1283 for more information .
Start your savings now!**



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Energy Conservation Tips

- Keep your thermostat set on 68 degrees for efficiency
- Caulk around all windows
- Weather-strip doors and windows
- Install door sweeps
- Use an expanding insulated foam such as *Great Stuff* to fill in around pipe entrances to act as an insulator
- Put on additional clothing instead of turning up the thermostat
- Install a water heater timer on an electric water heater
- Install a water heater jacket if the electric water heater is in an unconditioned space such as a garage, outside storage building, under the house, or in the attic
- Contact your local contractor for advice on how to check your insulation levels; if needed, add to the level of insulation in your attic and crawl space.
- Use outlet and switch plate foam insulators
- Keep fireplace dampers closed
- Replace incandescent bulbs and fixtures with compact or standard fluorescent lamps
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed and do not block them with furniture, carpeting, or drapes
- Use ventilation fans in the kitchen and bathroom wisely; in just one hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of warmed air
- Check your ducts for air leaks and repair with Mastic Seal
- Programmable thermostats reduce utility costs without sacrificing comfort by reducing the temperature in the home while occupants are away or sleeping
- Install low-flow faucets and showerheads
- Decrease the thermostat setting on your water heater to 120 degrees



What to Do if You Smell Gas

Call the Rocky Mount Gas Department immediately, anytime day or night.

Day 972-1278

Night 972-1414

If you detect a gas leak, we want to know right away. Don't try to locate the problem yourself. If the odor is inside your home or business, an emergency situation could exist, and you should evacuate as a safety measure.

Open a window and make sure you use no electrical switches. Extinguish any open flames and evacuate the area.